

March 2, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC —Today, Monday, March 2, 2009, President Barack Obama announced the release of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support health centers across the nation. Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) is proud to announce that the proposed Center for Family Health in Upper Darby (CFH-UD) will receive more than \$1 million in funding—the direct result of an effort by the Congressman that began over two years ago at the request of a number of constituents who live in Upper Darby and Millbourne.

“This is the culmination of several years of hard work,” said Congressman Sestak. “When I ran for Congress, I did so with the commitment that I would regard health care as one of the pillars of our national security. It was clear to me—as it was to many constituents of the 7th District who spoke to me—that we needed a health center in Upper Darby. One of my very first acts after I was elected to Congress was to help ChesPenn Health Services secure \$10,000 from Crozer-Keystone Health System to conduct a study for the proposed health center. In my second year in Congress, I supported ChesPenn’s application for federal grant funding under a Health and Human Services” Health Resource and Service Administration (HRSA) program to establish community health clinics. Although the project was found eligible, due to a limitation in funding the project was not awarded the grant. Under HRSA guidelines, the project scored a 95 out of 100, missing that year’s cutoff by one point. Since then, I have continued to support the effort and was preparing to fight for Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations funding. Today, however, I am proud to say that because of our efforts to get this project ‘shovel ready,’ ChesPenn will receive more than \$1 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to be used for this health center. This is the stimulus at work. This project will create quality, high-paying jobs right here in the 7th District and will foster a healthy, productive workforce and community.”

By establishing a new site in Upper Darby Township, ChesPenn will increase access to affordable and accessible primary health care to the community, without regard to ability to pay. Currently, there is no source of affordable primary health care services for the uninsured or underinsured. The Center for Family Health of Upper Darby will provide a sliding-fee program for those who are income-eligible. Services will be affordable for the target population, and be located at a visible and easily accessible site.

Besides being a cost-effective means of increasing access to affordable primary health care services, the new access point will have a positive impact on the health care system as a whole.

Patients, who would normally forego care because of limited financial resources, or linguistic barriers, will have a medical home. It is anticipated that they will seek medical care in the earlier stages of their illnesses when the costs to treat them are less than if they wait and have to be treated in the hospitals' emergency room.

"I would like to thank the CEO of Crozer-Keystone Health Systems, Joan Richards, who was instrumental in securing the initial \$10,000 to conduct the study for the health center, without which this project would not have happened," the Congressman said. "I also thank ChesPenn and its Executive Director, Michael Lucas, and President of the Board, Rae Roeder, for their efforts to pursue this project. Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank the many constituents, including Jeanette MacNeille, Sheikh Siddique, Councilman Alauddin Patwary, and Doctors Leslie Everts and Shannon Keel, who ensured that this was brought to my attention. The work of these citizens epitomizes what can result from positive grassroots efforts."

ChesPenn Health Services, Inc., is a non-profit, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), and a community-based corporation that provides comprehensive primary and preventive health care and social services to medically underserved families and individuals regardless of their ability to pay. ChesPenn, a freestanding non-profit community health center, will establish an FQHC site at the Center for Family Health in Upper Darby, PA (CFH-UD), a family practice residency site currently owned and operated by the Crozer-Chester Medical Center (CCMC) in Upland, PA, near ChesPenn's other two sites in Chester. This site is currently staffed and operational with dedicated provider and support staff and with assigned family practice residents who rotate through their 3 year program. This health center provides primary care and prenatal and obstetrical services for approximately 1600 patients and its patient panel is predominantly low income, minority and immigrant.

Additional Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) funding will enable an expansion of the current facility and the addition of provider, nursing, and clinical support staff to increase patient enrollment. ChesPenn will implement its 340B pharmacy program at this site, refer patients to a mental health and substance abuse treatment center within walking distance, and offer access to its dental program in Chester which is accessible by public transportation.

The anticipated benefit/impact of CFH-UD on the Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District during the first year of operation will be to provide services to 2,065 patients in 5,156 patient visits. By the end of the second operational year, CFH-UD will have increased the number of patients in the practice to 3,375 and have provided services in 8,925 visits. By year three, the practice will have matured and it is anticipated that the number of patients in the practice panel

will be at 4,000 and services will be projected to be provided in 12,000 patient visits.

Health-related goals include:

- Increase access to prenatal care and improved birth outcomes
- Improve children's health by preventing the occurrence of vaccine preventable diseases
- Reduce the incidence of teen-age pregnancy, substance abuse, STD and emotional problems among adolescent users,
- Reduce the complications of diabetes
- Decrease excess morbidity and mortality due to heart disease
- Decrease excess morbidity and mortality due to cancer
- Decrease the number of deaths from HIV/AIDS
- Increase safety awareness to reduce unintentional injuries
- Ensure that health care for elderly patients is appropriate
- Improve access to mental health counseling and treatment
- Increase access to affordable dental care

Nationwide, grants totaling \$155 million will assist 126 health centers and help provide health care to an estimated 750,000 low-income people across the country. The grants, which are administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), are expected to create 5,500 jobs at the new health centers across the country.

HRSA's network of 1,100 health center grantees across the nation provide health care at more than 7,000 sites, ranging from large medical facilities to clinics and mobile vans. In 2007, health centers served 16.1 million patients, regardless of their ability to pay. Charges for services are set according to income, and only nominal fees are collected from the poorest patients.

Nationally, about 39 percent of health center patients have no health insurance.

HRSA grants typically account for about 19 percent of a health center's total revenue. Medicare, Medicaid and other federal grants and payments total about 46 percent of revenue; remaining operating funds come from state and local grants, foundations, and patient payments.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in

Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of “Deep Blue,” the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the “Global War on Terrorism.” He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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